

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D.,  
Teacher of English Bible in the Moody  
Bible Institute of Chicago.  
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## LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 16

### WITNESSES OF CHRIST'S GLORY.

**LESSON TEXT**—Luke 9:28-36.  
**GOLDEN TEXT**—This is my beloved  
Son, hear ye him.—Mark 9:7.  
**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**—Matt. 17:1-8;  
Mark 9:2-8; II Peter 1:16-18.  
**PRIMARY AND JUNIOR TOPIC**—Peter  
and John with Jesus on the mountain.  
**SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC**—The  
glory of Jesus Christ.

While it is true that in this lesson the disciples are witnesses of Christ's glory, the full truth is that the manifestation of Christ in glory was to give to the discouraged disciples a foregleam of the Messianic Kingdom. The hopes of the disciples were crushed when Christ announced his death on the cross. They were unable to see how victory could issue from death.

Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and went into the mountain to pray. His chief aim in retirement was to get the disciples apart into a state of receptivity so that he might show them the method of the Kingdom. Before going to the mountain he declared that there were some standing in his presence who would not taste of death till they should see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom (Luke 9:27; Matt. 16:28). That their drooping spirits might be revived and their confidence restored, he is transfigured before them. Two men from the upper world are sent to converse with him about his approaching death in Jerusalem (v. 31)—the very thing about which the disciples refused to talk. Then, too, God's own voice was heard in words of approval of Christ's course, directing them to hear the Master. Surely they cannot doubt his ability now to carry into execution his kingdom plans. The purpose, then, of the transfiguration is to give the disciples a foregleam of the coming Kingdom, to enable them to see the Kingdom in embryo. That this is true is not only shown by the context and circumstances, but by the inspired interpretation of one who was with him and knew all that happened. Peter said, "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of his majesty, for he received of God the Father, honor and glory when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory. This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: and this voice we ourselves heard come out of heaven, when we were with him in the holy mount. And we have the word of prophecy made more sure; wherunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts (2 Peter 1:16-19 R. V.). To those who believe in the inspiration of the Bible these words are final. Let us therefore note the outstanding features of the Kingdom as displayed in the transfiguration.

I. Jesus Christ the Glorified King on Mount Zion (v. 29).

The glorified King on this Mount was intended to symbolize the Messianic Kingdom when Christ returns to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (Zech. 14:4-17). This is still in the future, and will be literally fulfilled.

II. The Glorified Saints With Christ (vv. 30, 31).

1. Moses, who was once denied an entrance into Palestine, appears now in glory, representing the redeemed of the Lord who will pass through death into the Kingdom. Many thousands of the redeemed have fallen asleep and at the coming of the Lord shall be awakened to pass into the Kingdom.

2. Elijah, now glorified, represents the redeemed who shall pass into the Kingdom through translation. Many shall be living upon the earth when the Lord shall come, and shall without dying be changed and thus pass into the Kingdom (1 Cor. 15:50-53; 1 Thess. 4:14-18).

3. They talk of the very thing which the disciples refused to believe, namely, the death of Christ.

III. Israel, in the Flesh, in Connection With the Kingdom, Represented by Peter, James and John (v. 28).

Israel shall be called from their hiding place among all nations of the earth and shall be gathered to Jesus Christ the King, as the central people in the Kingdom (Ez. 37:21-27).

1. Peter proposes to build three tabernacles (v. 33). The Feast of Tabernacles looked forward to the glorious reign of Christ. Peter caught a glimpse of the significance of the transfiguration. His proposition showed that he thought of the Feast of Tabernacles, and therefore of the Millennium.

2. The divine voice (v. 35). At this time God himself uttered his words, assuring them that this one in glory was his son Jesus Christ.

IV. The Multitude at the Foot of the Mountain (vv. 37-43).

This is representative of the nations which shall be brought into the Kingdom which shall be established over Israel (see Isaiah 11:10-12). The people here were grievously oppressed by the devil. There are times when the devil is especially active in his oppression of men. About the time of Christ's first coming he did his best to harass men. Just before Christ's coming again he will be especially active, for he knows that his time is short.

## BUDGET SYSTEM WORKS WELL IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research has just filed its report with Governor Cooper of the investigation made in October of the budget system which was introduced in South Carolina upon the recommendation of Governor Cooper at the beginning of his administration. Investigators were very complimentary of the progress made under the budget system.

Several important recommendations were made. One of these was for greater authority for the governor over the administrative departments, carrying a consolidation of departments to afford administrative responsibility. A standard scale of salaries for state officials is also urged. The extension of the budget system so as to include county budgets in the plan is recommended. This would necessitate a uniform system of accounting and extension of the duties and authority of the comptroller general. The need for an annual ad interim appropriation bill to cover the expenses of the state government from the beginning of the year to the date of the ratification of the appropriation bill is pointed out.

**People Want Economy.**  
with regard to the financial system of the state, the report says that the people of South Carolina appear to be willing to pay the expenses of government, if they can be assured that the expenditures are wisely and economically made. "This end, it is fully believed by this bureau," says the report, "can be realized more nearly through the scientific budget procedure recently inaugurated than in any other manner of public administration. However, it is necessary to add a word of caution—the best results can be obtained only when the state has amended some of its laws to provide for a greater control over the administrative departments by the chief executive of the state. A maximum of results requires a consolidation of departments to afford administrative responsibility."

**Discontinue "Contingencies."**  
The report recommends that the governor's office should be provided with an appropriation for "contingencies" and the similar appropriation for any other office, board, institution, etc., be discontinued.

In explaining this recommendation, the report says that "if sufficient care is exercised in preparing departmental requests, the need for a 'slush' fund, as contingencies, will prove unnecessary. Should other than the anticipated or normal state of affairs occur in the conduct of any activity, such contingency, unforeseen circumstances may be referred to the governor or budget commission, in order

that a transfer permit may be made. On the other hand, the contingent fund of the governor's office should be ample to meet any but a great or extraordinary demand for state funds." The report goes on to say that the availability of a contingent fund should be restricted to the chief executive, and that the governor's contingent fund should be adequate, as it is recognized that conditions may arise during the months the legislature is not in session, and "only the governor can act."

The suggestion for an ad interim appropriation bill, to cover expenses between January 1 every year and the date of the signing of the annual appropriation bill, is made with a view to covering expenses that come due in this period every year, such as official's salaries. There is almost two months' elapsing every year in this interim.

**The Comptroller General.**  
Regarding the extension of the authority and duties of the comptroller general, the report suggests that this official should be charged with the duty of auditing all offices, departments, institutions and agencies of the state, thus centering in one office the knowledge and authority of financial conditions of the state and providing a uniform accounting system.

The suggestion for a budget system in each county similar to that of the state is made with a view to giving the people a better knowledge of their own county governments and to effect greater economy in the matter of county administration.

The report calls attention to the fact that there is a wide range of salaries in state offices and an imperative need for a standardization of positions and salaries within the state government.

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